REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claim Status

Claims 1-8 are pending in this application. Claims 1 and 5 have been rejected.

Claims 2-4 and 6-8 have been objected to by the Examiner. Claims 1 and 5 are herein canceled. Claims 2, 6 and 7 are herein amended. No new matter has been added by these amendments.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1 and 5 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,603,774 (Knappe).

Applicants respectfully acknowledge the Examiner's indication that claims 2-4 and 6-8 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of their base claims and any intervening claims. Accordingly, Applicants have rewritten claims 2, 6 and 7 in independent form to include the limitations of their base claims and any intervening claims to place claims 2-4 and 6-8 in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, Applicants submit that the claims as herein presented are allowable over the prior art of record, taken alone or in combination, and that the respective rejections be withdrawn. Applicants further submit that the application is hereby placed in condition for allowance which action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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